Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08902 122229Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 /072 W
----------087687 131840Z /43
R 122056Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8536
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08902

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, BQG
SUBJECT: SOVIET MFA DESK OFFICER ON BERLIN QUESTION

1. AT THE MAY 10 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) REPORTED ON A DISCUSSION HE HELD ON MAY 5 WITH KVITZINSKIY, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE THIRD EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT (GERMAN AFFAIRS) IN THE SOVIET MFA. KVITZINSKIY WAS IN BONN AS A MEMBER OF BREZHNEV'S PARTY. THEY ARE OLD ACQUAINTANCES FROM VON BRAUNMUEHL'S DAYS IN MOSCOW.

2. ACCORDING TO VON BRAUNMUEHL, KVITZINSKIY LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE BELIEVED NO MOVEMENT AT ALL WAS POSSIBLE ON THE BERLIN QUESTION. THE MAIN REASON WAS THAT IT WAS "PART OF A BROADER COMPLEX." HE HIMSELF HAD WEARIED OF THE MATTER AND THE NEVER CHANGING ARGUMENTS OF BOTH SIDES.

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PAGE 02 BONN 08902 122229Z

3. KVITZINSKIY EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET MFA HAS SOLE ACTION RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN. ASKED IF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT WAS NOT ALSO INVOLVED, HE REPLIED THAT THE "GERMANISTS" IN THE SECRETARIAT TALKED ABOUT IT, EVEN WITH VISITORS, BUT "THEY DON'T COOK THE SOUP." QUESTIONED FURTHER IF THIS ALSO APPLIED TO HIGHER SEC-RETARIAT FUNCTIONARIES, FOR EXAMPLE, ZAGLADIN OR THE

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BREZHNEV ADVISERS ALEXANDOR (PAST CHIEF OF THE THIRD EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT) AND BLATOV, HE SAID THAT IN GENERAL IT WAS INDEED THE CASE SINCE GROMYKO BECAME A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO.

4. ON THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN KVITZINSKI (GDR MATTERS) AND SHIKIN, ALSO A DEPUTY CHIEF (WEST BERLIN MATTERS) IN THE THIRD EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, KVITZINSKIY SAID THAT SHIKIN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS STILL EXERCISED IN BOTH PARTS OF THE CITY, FOR EXAMPLE, FLAG PATROLS. HE AND SCHIKIN HAD CO-RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REMANTS OF QUADRIPARTITE STATUS IN EAST BERLIN, FOR EXAMPLE, THE QUESTION OF A CHANGE IN THE GDR'S ELECTORAL LAW IN REGARD TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EAST BERLIN.

5. KVITZINSKIY SAID THERE WERE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN MOSCOW ABOUT THE TRANSLATION "VIERMAECHTEABKOMMEN" (FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT) OR "VIERSEITIGES ABKOMMEN" (QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT). ONE SCHOOL OPPOSED THE USE OF "VIERMAECHTEABKOMMEN," BECAUSE IT COULD OFFER THE FRG A CHANCE TO CLAIM THAT A FOUR-POWER RESPONSIBILITY STILL EXISTED. THE OTHER SCHOOL, TO WHICH HE ADHERED, DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WAS BAD AT ALL TO MAINTAIN THE CONCEPT OF FOUR-POWER RIGHTS--"JUST IN CASE."
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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